HAMPDEN COIT DUBOSE

By S. H. CHESTER

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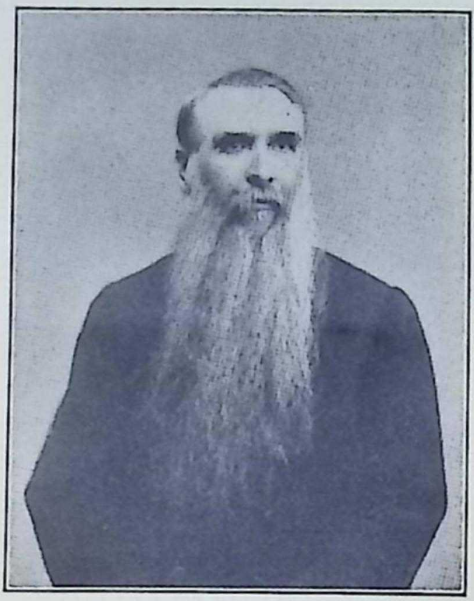

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THE SUBJECT OF this sketch was born in Darlington, S. C., September 30, 1845.

Bereaved of his parents in boyhood, he worked his own way through school and helped with the expenses of a younger brother at school at the same time. He was a graduate of the College of South Carolina and of the Columbia Theological Seminary.

On April 8, 1871, he was ordained to the ministry, Dr. Wm. S. Plumer preaching the ordination sermon, and Dr. J. Leighton Wilson delivering the pastoral charge.

On April 3, 1872, he was married to Miss Pauline McAlpine, of Talladega, Alabama, and on the following day Mr. and Mrs. DuBose started to China, where they labored together for thirty-eight years. In the home which they established at Soochow five children grew up to manhood and womanhood, three of whom, after being educated in this country, went back to China as foreign missionaries. The eldest daughter, Pauline McAlpine, was

married in 1896 to Rev. Lacy L. Little, of Kiangyin, China. She died the following summer in Japan.

On his second furlough home in 1890 the Synod of South Carolina honored itself by electing Dr. DuBose to the Moderatorship, and the following spring by an overwhelming majority over all competitors he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly which met at Birmingham, Alabama. No one who was present at that Assembly can ever forget the glorious independence of parliamentary rules, the manifest fairness and impartiality and common sense which discouraged all points of order against his rulings, and the tact with which he managed to avoid all unpleasantness in the discussions of the body.

Dr. DuBose was, first of all, a missionary evangelist, preaching the gospel unweariedly through the streets of Soochow and through all the regions round about that great city. When he was at home he rarely missed a day from preaching at his favorite Yang Yo Hang street chapel, and he often preached there two and three times a day. No visiting brother was ever known to pass through Soochow without being drafted into service at that street chapel. One million people are said by his fellow-workers to be a conservative esti-

mate of those who at one time or another heard the gospel from his lips.

He was also a prolific writer, both in English and in Chinese. His books in English are "The Image Dragon and Demon," "Preaching in Sinim," and a "Life of Dr. J. Leighton Wilson." He published many works in Chinese, including commentaries on various books of the Bible and a work on Apologetics. His "Street Chapel Pulpit" was seventh on the list reported to the Centenary Conference in Shanghai in 1907, containing the books, "arranged as nearly as possible in the order of their popularity, which have been commended as being most useful." At the time of his death he was engaged in writing a work on "Systematic Theology," doing his last work on that book on the night before he died.

Perhaps his greatest and most abiding work is that which he did during the last fifteen years of his life as President of the Anti-Opium League. "When the cause looked utterly hopeless," says one of his colleagues, "his was a voice crying in the wilderness, and, as in other things, he never gave up, and it was his joy before he died to see the almost complete triumph of that great crusade. To him more than to any other one person was due the ulti-

mate destruction of the opium trade, which was accomplished a few years after his death."

Dr. DuBose's connection with the Anti-Opium League brought him into contact with the representatives of the British Government in India and in England and with many of the highest officials of the Chinese Empire. On the day of his funeral the Governor of Kiangsu sent a beautiful scroll, on which were four large characters meaning: "He has truly gone to heaven above."

One of Dr. DuBose's marked characteristics was his untiring industry. From his home to his street chapel or his country preaching place, from his chapel back to his books, and from his books back to his preaching place, was his daily routine. No one ever saw him when he seemed to be tired or discouraged. His was the optimism which is nearly always associated with such boundless physical energy as he possessed.

Speaking of his personal relations with his fellow workers, one of them says, "Very marked was his interest in and regard for everyone. It was he who remembered the anniversaries of his friends. It was he who in prayer remembered the special need of the near or distant fellow worker. It is

sweet to recall his tender intercessory prayers, in which there mingled both love for his friends and familiarity with the throne of grace."

In the last year of his life his eyesight became so impaired that Mrs. DuBose did his reading and writing for him. One day he said to her, "Wife, I am going to do as the catechism says we must do—that is, glorify God and enjoy Him forever. I am going on working on my Theology and preaching while I have the strength, and then when God calls me I am going to enjoy Him forever." He glorified God by his humble, prayerful life and incessant activity up to the night of March 21, 1910. During that night he passed into unconsciousness and on the next morning he passed into the presence of God to "enjoy Him forever."

There were two funeral services. The one in English was attended by all the missionaries and many foreign friends from the business community. The other was conducted in Chinese. His native helpers stood weeping around his bier, and many native Christians came to express their love and grief for the friend they had lost. One man who was not a Christian said, "I do not worship his Jesus, but I have been praying to Him, ever since

I heard Dr. DuBose was ill, to heal him." His body was laid to rest in the cemetery at Shanghai, where the little colony of departed Southern Presbyterian missionaries await the coming of their Lord.

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